

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15-19 have been amended to overcome a substantive rejection. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15-19 have been amended to overcome a substantive rejection. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15-19 are independent.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,771,425 (Yamada, et al.). Claims 4 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over the Yamada, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,364 (Nomura et al.).

Response to Substantive Rejections

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, the independent claims have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, the independent claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claims 1, 5, and 15 recite, in part, that an electrophotographic photosensitive drum comprises a cylinder having an electrophotographic photosensitive member provided on the surface thereof, and flanges provided on end portions of the cylinder in the axial direction of the cylinder. These claims also recite that at least one of the flanges has an outer peripheral portion, a hole portion engaging a drum shaft, and multiple ribs extending radially in the radial direction.

Independent Claims 1, 5, and 15 have been amended to recite that the at least one of the flanges also has an annular rib provided between the outer peripheral portion and the hole portion in the radial direction.

By this arrangement, even when the cylinder is fixed onto the flange, the deformation of the hole portion can be prevented.

Independent Claims 8, 12, and 16-19 recite, in part, that an electrophotographic photosensitive drum comprises a cylinder having an electrophotographic photosensitive member provided on the surface thereof, and flanges provided on end portions of the cylinder in the axial direction of the cylinder. These claims also recite that at least one of the flanges has an outer peripheral portion, a hole portion engaging a drum shaft, and a groove which engages a fixing pin provided in the drum shaft in a direction intersecting the drum shaft. These claims further recite that the groove extends in the radial direction and transmits a driving force of the drum shaft.

Claims 8, 12 and 16-19 have been amended to recite that the groove has a width accommodating insertion of the fixing pin into the groove in the axial direction.

By this arrangement, the cylinder can be fixed onto the flange by the fixing pin and the groove without jouncing, thereby improving the precision with which the photosensitive drum is rotated.

In contrast, neither the Yamada, et al. patent nor the Nomura et al. patent is understood to disclose or suggest that at least one flange of a photosensitive drum has an annular rib provided between the outer peripheral portion and the hole portion thereof in the radial direction, as recited by amended Claims 1, 5, and 15. In addition, neither the Yamada, et al. patent nor the Nomura et al. patent is understood to disclose or suggest that the groove of a flange or at least one flange of a photosensitive drum has a width accommodating insertion of a fixing pin into the groove in the axial direction, as recited by amended Claims 8, 12 and 16-19.

For this reason, the Patent Office has not yet established anticipation of Claims 1, 5, and 8 over the patent to Yamada, et al. In addition, for this reason, the Patent Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against independent Claims 12 and 15-19 over the patents to Yamada, et al. and Nomura et al., since MPEP § 2142 requires the Office to cite art showing each feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejections of independent Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15-19 over the patents to Yamada, et al. and Nomura et al.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Jacobs", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Gary M. Jacobs

Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10112-3801

Facsimile No.: (212) 218-2200

GMJ:ayr

DC_MAIN 201736v1